

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A hydrogen storage and/or transportation container comprising a hydrogen storage alloy material,

wherein said hydrogen storage alloy material has a structure where ultrafine particles of Pd or Pd-Ni alloy, ~~M (M is at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Pt, Au, Fe, Co and Ni) and one or more compounds thereof~~ are precipitated and dispersed in a parent phase of  $ZrO_2$ ,

wherein said hydrogen storage alloy material is prepared by subjecting an amorphous Zr alloy used as a precursor to a heat treatment in air or an oxygen atmosphere so as to form the structure,

wherein the Zr alloy has a composition, in atomic %, expressed by the following formula:

~~$Zr_{100-a-b}Pd_aM_b$~~   $Zr_{100-a-b}Pd_aNi_b$  (wherein  $15 \leq a \leq 40$ ,  $2 < b \leq 10$ , ~~and M is at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Pt, Au, Fe, Co and Ni).~~

2. (Currently Amended): The hydrogen storage ~~alloy material~~ and/or transportation container as defined in claim 1, which exhibits a hydrogen storage amount of 2.5 weight % or more in a weight ratio relative to Pd contained in said hydrogen storage alloy material.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended): ~~A method for producing the hydrogen storage alloy material~~ The hydrogen storage and/or transportation container as defined in claim 1, wherein the hydrogen storage alloy material is made by a method comprising:

preparing a melt of a master  $[[\text{Zr}]]$  Zr-Ni alloy formed through a melting process;

rapidly solidifying said melt at a cooling rate of  $10^4$  K/s or more to form said amorphous  $[[\text{Zr}]]$  Zr-Ni alloy; and

subjecting said amorphous  $[[\text{Zr}]]$  Zr-Ni alloy to an oxidizing heat treatment in air or an oxygen atmosphere at 250 to 350°C to selectively oxidize said alloy element Zr so as to allow ultrafine particles of said Pd, ~~said Ni and one or more compounds thereof~~ Pd-Ni alloy to be precipitated and dispersed in a parent phase of  $\text{ZrO}_2$ .